



City of Kingston
Information Report to Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report Number MAAC-24-010

To: Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services

Resource Staff: Amy Elgersma, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

Date of Meeting: May 2, 2024

Subject: 2023 Recreation Services & Recreation Facilities Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

This report summarizes activities within the municipality related to accessibility in the areas of recreation programming and recreation facilities. Specifically, this report provides an update on 2023 activities and initiatives implemented by the Recreation & Leisure Services department.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Jennifer Campbell,
**Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

The City's Recreation & Leisure Services department facilitates recreation programming across the City in a variety of parks and recreation facilities. Throughout 2023, a wide range of programs and services were offered by the municipality and its partners.

Provided below is an update on the initiatives and programs in 2023 related to accessibility:

Recreation Programs - Updates and Ongoing Initiatives

- Cosmos Club Pilot Project with Bloom Skills Centre
 - In spring 2023, the City of Kingston supported a pilot program to develop a calendar of social activities designed specifically for those living with exceptionalities within the City of Kingston. In July 2023, the Cosmos Club was able to provide:
 - Important connection to community for those often excluded from social activities, helping to improve mental health and wellness as well as building relationships with others.
 - Low-cost alternatives for those on disability supports, reducing barriers to improved wellness.
 - Simplified registration process for access to a wider range of activities.
 - Access to various facility locations for activities and reducing transportation difficulties removes barriers and services all areas of Kingston.
- Recreation Programs and Services
 - Public Skating Guidelines and Inclusion Activities
 - Discussions began around new guidelines for the arenas to better support accessibility and ideas for activities to support inclusion began in December 2023.
 - Inclusive play at Shannon Park
 - In September 2023 Council endorsed, in principle, a community led proposal to develop a highly inclusive playground in Shannon Park. Staff continue to work with community partners to support the potential project while fundraising, grant applications and promotion are ongoing.

Recreation Programs Specific to Rideau Heights Community Centre

- Community Partner collaboration with Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
 - Creation of a CNIB-supported "buddy system" with partner groups (YMCA of Eastern Ontario, BGC South East, Kingston Frontenac Public Library) to pair visually impaired youth with community partner groups to de-stigmatize youth at Rideau Heights Community Centre.

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- Training sessions to help community partners identify clients that have special visual needs and resources needed to address them.
- Avoiding Falls/Frailty Network
 - A speciality programming and training offered once a week, beginning in September 2023, for Seniors 65+.
 - Includes mobility training to build strength and resilience.

2024 Actions

- Finalize new public skating accessibility and inclusion guidelines.
- Work with partners to develop process for Springer Market Square activations to ensure accessibility needs are considered.
 - Added yellow caution/visibility tape to the tops of the rink boards to support accessibility to the recent synthetic ice installation and adapted pathway access based on feedback.
- Communicate service animal standards in recreation facilities.
- Recreation Facilities – Community Centres
 - Repaint all accessible parking space markings at various community centres including Rideau Heights Community Centre, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour and Artillery Park.
- Continue to support partners in fundraising efforts to establish an accessible playground in Shannon Park.

Contacts:

Tony Gargaro, Manager, Recreation Services, 613-546-4291 extension 1805

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Darek Osostowicz, Supervisor, Aquatics, Recreation & Leisure Services

Ryan Evoy, Supervisor, Recreation Facilities, Recreation & Leisure Services

Erica McPherson, Supervisor, Recreation & Community Development, Recreation & Leisure Services

Ben Leslie, Coordinator, Community Development Coordinator, Community Development & Wellbeing